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# The Department of National Defence



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The Department of National Defence was created by the National Defence Act, 1922.

The control and management of the Canadian Forces, and all matters relating to national-defence establishments and works for the defence of Canada, fall under the authority of the Minister of National Defence, who is responsible for presenting before the Cabinet those matters of major defence policy for which Cabinet direction is required. Until October 1973, this Minister was responsible for the Canada Emergency Measures Organization, which in 1974 was renamed National Emergency Planning Establishment, and is now known as Emergency Planning Canada. The new organization remains for administrative purposes within the department but reports to the Privy Council Office. The Minister continues to be responsible for certain civil-emergency powers, duties and functions.

The Deputy Minister is the senior public servant in the department and the principal civilian adviser to the Minister on all departmental affairs. He is responsible for ensuring that all policy direction emanating from the Government is reflected in the administration of the department.

The Chief of the Defence Staff, the senior military adviser to the Minister, is charged with the control and administration of the Canadian Forces. He is responsible for the ef-

fective conduct of military operations and the readiness of the Canadian Forces to meet the commitments assigned to the department by the Government.

Within National Defence Headquarters, the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, four Assistant Deputy Ministers, as well as the Judge Advocate General, the Director General Information and the Director General Departmental Administrative Services, all report to the Deputy Minister and the Chief of the Defence Staff. The Vice Chief of the Defence Staff is the principal assistant and adviser to the Deputy Minister and the Chief of the Defence Staff, and acts for the latter during his absence. The Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff is responsible to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff for the effective and efficient performance of the operations of the Canadian Forces.

#### *The Canadian Armed Forces*

The Canadian Forces are organized on a functional basis to reflect the major commitments assigned by the Government. All forces devoted to a primary mission are grouped under a single commander, who is as-



signed resources to discharge his responsibilities. Specifically, they are organized into National Defence Headquarters and the following:

- Maritime Command
- Mobile Command
- Air Command
- Canadian Forces Communications Command (CFCC)
- Canadian Forces (Europe)
- Canadian Forces Northern Region

### **Maritime Command**

All Canadian maritime forces are under the command of the Commander, Maritime Command, whose headquarters are in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In addition, he has operational control of maritime aircraft. The Deputy Commander is the Commander, Maritime Forces Pacific, with headquarters in Esquimalt, British Columbia. The role of Maritime Command is the surveillance and control of the sea approaches of the three oceans bordering Canada, and the provision of combat-ready ships in support of Canada's commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and continental defence. The Commander, Maritime Command, is also the Commander of the Canadian Atlantic Sub-Area of the Western Atlantic Command, under the Supreme Commander, Allied Command Atlantic. Additional roles are to support Canadian military operations as required and to conduct search-and-rescue operations within the Halifax and Victoria Search and Rescue Regions (roughly, the Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia).

Since Canada declared its 200-mile zone effective January 1, 1977,

increased maritime surface and air resources have been devoted to the surveillance and control of Canadian waters in support of the Department of Fisheries and the Environment. A multitude of ships are identified every year, and many are boarded by fisheries officers of the Department of Fisheries and the Environment, assisted by Canadian military personnel.

### **Mobile Command**

The role of Mobile Command is: to provide military units, suitably trained and equipped, for the protection of Canadian territory; to maintain operational readiness of combat formations in Canada required for overseas commitments; and to support United Nations or other peace-keeping operations.

The forces assigned include: one brigade group in the West, with headquarters in Calgary, a second in the East, with headquarters at Valcartier, Quebec, and an "air-drop-able/air-portable" regimental combat group, which includes the Special Service Force with headquarters at Petawawa, Ontario; the Canadian contingent of the United Nations Force in Cyprus; Canadian Contingent United Nations Middle East; and one combat-training centre at Gagetown, New Brunswick. The Militia is also controlled and administered by Mobile Command.

### *Militia*

The Militia is assigned its traditional role as a sub-component in support of the Regular Force. Under the present organization, units of the Militia

have been placed either under the Commander, Mobile Command, or under Canadian Forces Communications Command.

Mobile Command exercises command and control of 99 Militia combat units, as well as administrative and service units through five Militia area headquarters and 21 Militia districts.

### **Air Command**

With the formation of Air Command on September 2, 1975, general responsibility for Canada's military air forces was again vested in one senior commander, for the purpose of providing greater flexibility in the employment of air-power as well as of increasing operational effectiveness, safety and economy.

The Command's principal function is to provide operationally-ready regular and reserve air forces to meet Canada's national, continental and international commitments, and to carry out regional commitments within the Prairie Region, which consists of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba as well as the northwest part of Ontario.

Air Command, with headquarters at Winnipeg, consists of five functional elements:

- Air Defence Group, made up of units of the former Air Defence Command;
- Air Transport Group, taking in the units of the former Air Transport Command;
- Maritime Air Group, consisting of the air resources that were formerly part of Maritime Command;



- 10 Tactical Air Group, consisting of the air resources that were formerly part of Mobile Command;
- Air Reserve Group, comprising four air reserve wings.

In addition to the five groups, Air Command exercises command and control over the air-training schools.

#### *Air Defence Group*

Air Defence Group, with headquarters at North Bay, Ontario, has the task of maintaining the sovereignty of Canada's air-space. In addition, the group provides Canada's contribution to the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD). It has control of three all-weather fighter squadrons, a training squadron, two transcontinental radar lines, a satellite-tracking unit and an electronic-warfare squadron.

#### *Air Transport Group*

Air Transport Group, with headquarters at Trenton, Ontario, provides air-lift resources to enable the Canadian Forces to meet their commitments at home and abroad. It also undertakes national and international tasks as directed by the Government.

The group provides search-and-rescue service for downed aircraft and marine search-and-rescue operations. Its heavy-transport resources consist of 24 C-130 *Hercules* aircraft and five Boeing 707s. A squadron at Ottawa provides medium-range pas-

senger transport with *Cosmopolitan* and *Falcon* aircraft.

Transport-and-rescue squadrons located at Comox (British Columbia), Edmonton, Trenton and Summerside (Prince Edward Island), are equipped with combination fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft. Either *Buffalo* or *Twin Otter* aircraft, with *Twin Huey*, *Voyageur* or *Labrador* helicopters, are employed. Three *Labradors* are now based at 103 Rescue Unit, Gander (Newfoundland), to permit quicker response to emergency situations in Newfoundland, Labrador and the adjoining waters. The long-range transport squadrons at Trenton and Edmonton have one C-130 *Hercules* apiece assigned to search-and-rescue duties.

Search-and-rescue activities are co-ordinated from four centres located at Victoria, (B.C.), Edmonton, Trenton and Halifax. Rescue co-ordination centres are manned by Canadian Forces personnel, with Canadian Coast Guard officers attached on liaison duty in all centres except Edmonton.

In addition to the aircraft specially equipped and manned for search-and-rescue duties, others at various locations across Canada are also "tasked" and in some instances kept on standby to augment the search-and-rescue capability.

Air-movements units are located at Ottawa, Trenton, Edmonton and Lahr (West Germany), with detach-

ments at Comox (B.C.), Vancouver and Winnipeg, as well as Greenwood and Shearwater (Nova Scotia). The units provide passenger and cargo-processing services in support of the group's operations.

#### *Maritime Air Group*

Maritime Air Group, with headquarters at Halifax, was created on September 2, 1975, as a component of Air Command. The group is responsible for management of all air resources engaged in maritime patrol, maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare.

Though the commander of Maritime Air Group is responsible to the commander of Air Command, he comes under the operational control of the commander of Maritime Command while MAG is carrying out surveillance, patrol and anti-submarine roles. A close working relation between Maritime Command and Maritime Air Group enables them to share a single operation centre.

MAG conducts surveillance flights over Canada's coastal waters and the Arctic archipelago. It also provides anti-submarine air forces as part of Canada's contribution to NATO.

#### *10 Tactical Air Group*

Mobile Command has operational control over Air Command's 10 Tactical Air Group headquarters with which it is co-located at St Hubert, Quebec. The group operates all air

resources engaged in the close support of the army. This involves fixed-wing and helicopter fire-support, reconnaissance and tactical transport over the battle area.

#### *Air Reserve Group*

On 1 April 1976, a new formation was added to the Air Command family, the Air Reserve Group. Commanded by a reserve officer of general rank, the Air Reserve has its headquarters at Winnipeg. This group was formed in recognition of the growing importance of the air reserves, which in the recent past have seen some increase in their numbers and in the types of aircraft flown.

The Air Reserve comprises four air-reserve wings. 1 ARW in Montreal and 2 ARW in Toronto operate single-engine *Otter* aircraft; 3 ARW in Winnipeg is now flying twin-engine *Dakotas*, while 4 ARW in Edmonton operates *Twin Otters* both in conjunction with co-located Regular Force squadrons.

#### *Canadian Forces Training System*

The Canadian Forces Training System was created on September 2, 1975, with the formation of Air Command and the realignment of the Canadian Forces command structure. Its functions include the planning

and conduct of all recruit, trades, specialist and officer-classification training common to more than one command.

The commander of Canadian Forces Training System also assumes regional commitments in Central Region (the Province of Ontario). These commitments include responsibility for planning and implementing aid to the civil power, assistance to civil authorities and other federal departments, liaison with the provincial government and its agencies, and provision of support services to selected units of other commands.

### **Canadian Forces Communications Command**

Canadian Forces Communications Command, with headquarters in Ottawa, manages, operates and maintains strategic communications for the Canadian Forces and, in emergencies, for the federal and provincial governments. The command also provides points for interconnecting strategic and tactical networks, and manages, operates and maintains the major automatic data-processing centres.

### **Canadian Forces Northern Region**

With headquarters at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and a headquarters detachment at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, the Northern Region encompasses the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, including the islands in Hudson and James Bay and the islands of the Arctic archipelago, and extends to the geographical North Pole. Its total area is more than one and a half million square miles, representing about 40 per cent of Canada's mass. Commander Northern Region is responsible for regional military matters and for co-ordinating and supporting the activities of forces when they are employed in the North. The objectives of the Canadian Forces in the North are to support the civil authorities in preserving control, to contribute to Northern development and to maintain the security of Canada.

### **Canadian Forces (Europe)**

Canadian forces allocated to support NATO in Europe are under the jurisdiction of Canadian Forces (Europe). These forces, located in the Black Forest region of Southern Germany at Lahr and Baden Solingen, consist of a land force (4 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group) and an air force (1 Canadian Air Group). The latter consists of three conventional attack squadrons of CF-104 aircraft.

### *Canadian peacekeeping operations*

Since the Second World War, Canada has played a vital role, in co-operation with the United Nations, in its capacity as a peacekeeping agency for the preservation of peace and the promotion of international security. Canadians have participated in almost all UN peacekeeping operations to date – in Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Korea, India, Pakistan, West New Guinea, the Congo, Yemen and Nigeria.

Nearly 900 Canadian soldiers served in the Gaza Strip following the Israeli-Egyptian crisis of 1956 until the force was disbanded in 1967. In the Congo, a 300-man signals unit provided communications for the UN Force from 1960 to 1964. Canadian participation in the International Commission for Control and Supervision in Vietnam and Laos began in 1954; at the high point of participation, in 1973, following the U.S. military withdrawal from Vietnam, there

were 245 Canadian Forces personnel involved in the supervision of the cease-fire. The Canadian Vietnam supervisory contingent was withdrawn in July 1973 and the Laos mission was withdrawn in the spring of 1974.

Canada's largest peacekeeping commitment at the present time (1979) is in the Middle East, where Canadians participate in the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) and in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). UNEF serves in the Sinai and UNDOF on the Golan Heights. Canada's current participation in UNEF/UNDOF is approximately 1,000 personnel; about 880 Canadians are serving with UNEF and about 172 with UNDOF.

The UN Force in Cyprus is another of Canada's large military commitments. Since 1964, Canadian participation has included provision of an infantry battalion and a Canadian element in the UN headquarters – a total of approximately 580 officers and men. However, in July 1974, following the troubles in Cyprus, Canada, at the request of the UN, augmented the Cyprus contingent by an additional force of approximately 480 officers and men and some additional military equipment. About 515



Canadians are at present serving in the Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus. In addition, 115 were serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon from March to October 1978.

Other Canadian peacekeeping operations in 1978 were as follows:

- Nine Canadian Forces members with the UN Military Observer Group, India-Pakistan (participation reduced to one officer at the end of 1978);
- 20 Canadian officers with the UN Truce Supervisory Organization, Israel;
- two Canadian Forces members in Korea with the UN Military Armistice Commission (until mid-1978).

#### *Military assistance programs*

Canada assists Commonwealth and non-NATO countries by sending them military-training teams or by training a small number of their military personnel on Canadian soil. Training teams are sent to countries such as Cameroon, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria and Zambia.

Canada provides training facilities for some NATO countries on a cost-recovery basis according to the provisions of the Visiting Forces and the NATO Status of Forces Agreements. Under the terms of a ten-year agreement signed in 1971, British

military forces train in Canada. A similar agreement was also signed with West Germany in 1973. Training areas remain under Canadian command and control, and all costs are paid by Britain and West Germany respectively.

Pilots from NATO countries have trained at Canadian defence establishments for many years. Recently, pilots from Denmark, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands have benefited from the program. Canada continues to train pilots from the Netherlands under an agreement that is to continue until July 1981.







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